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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABUJA 001128

SIPDIS

IO/S, IO/T, DHHS

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SUBJECT: WHO DEMARCHE/LOSS OF CHR SEAT

REF: SECSTATE 84094

1. (U) Poloff delivered reftel demarche on May 14 to Nonye C. ("Joel") Udegbumam, Minister Counselor in the Second U.N. Division at the MFA. Udegbumam said that as a member of the Fifth Committee, he had personally worked on the negotiating the reduction in the UN scales of assessment, and said he would be returning to New York to participate in the WHA later this week. He asserted that Nigeria would abide by the negotiated agreement, and would not support any attempt to change the U.S. portion of the WHO scale of assessment.

2. (C) In an aside, Udegbumam mentioned that he was "shocked" that the U.S. had lost its seat on the CHR. However, he implied that the loss came as no surprise to him: he claimed that he had expressed concern to G-77 colleagues prior/prior to the vote about what the reaction of the U.S. Congress might be to losing the seat. He asked Poloff if the USG had been aware that the Europeans had been actively working to deny the U.S. re-election. Poloff replied that he had no personal knowledge of such an endeavor. Udegbumam acknowledged that Nigeria did not vote with the U.S. on every issue during the latest CHR session, but asserted that Nigeria had voted for the U.S. to keep its seat on the Commission.

3. (C) Comment: Udegbumam said he developed his sensitivity to U.S. Congressional views as a member of the Fifth Committee. He said he was in New York, and not in Geneva, as CHR-related events unfolded. Embassy has not had much interaction with Udegbumam and does not know how accurate his recollection of conversations and their exact timing might be. He was, however, a more sympathetic interlocutor than Christy Mbonu. End Comment.

End Comment.

Andrews